

Panthers Surrendered in Raid Without Resisting, Police Say

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Black Panthers surrendered their Exposition Blvd. headquarters without resisting after police officers filled the building with tear gas during a raid last month, testimony at a preliminary hearing revealed Tuesday.

The headquarters was one of three buildings raided by police simultaneously Dec. 8. Three police officers were wounded in a gunfight at one of the other buildings.

The officers fired the tear gas into the Exposition Blvd. building for their protection, they testified, after they were unable to break open the front door.

Occupants Fled

It took 10 minutes to pry open an outer door and then knock down an interior door with a battering ram, the officers added.

By the time the officers gained entrance, the four occupants were fleeing from the tear gas.

Albert Armour dropped from an upstairs window of the two-story structure. Isiah Williams climbed out on the roof from a rear window

and dropped to the ground, officers testified.

Officer Arleigh McCree, the first man through the door, said he stepped into the building and saw a woman and then a man coming running down the stairs with their hands raised. He directed them outside.

They were identified as Sharon Williams and Craig Williams. They are not related.

Had No Gas Masks

McCree testified that he found three homemade pipe bombs on the stairs.

Sgt. James S. Ford told the court he found a shotgun, a rifle and ammunition in an upstairs bedroom. Apparently the Panthers were not equipped with gas masks.

The four suspects were arrested and charged with conspiracy to possess illegal explosives and illegal weapons. Dep. Dist. Atty. Ronald H. Carroll has indicated he will attempt to link them with the conspiracy-to-commit-murder charge for which the other defendants are being held.

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